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**ARAPAHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
EXPANSION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT  
SERVICES TO HIGH-RISK YOUTH  
LITTLETON, COLORADO  
TI12379**

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**GRANTEE STAFF**

**Authorized Representative**

John A. Brackney  
Chair  
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners  
5334 S. Prince Street  
Littleton, CO 80120  
(303) 795-4630 phone  
(303) 738-7894 fax  
johnbrackney@co.arapahoe.co.us

**Project Director**

Tammy Smith  
Arapahoe County  
5334 S. Prince Street  
Littleton, CO 80120  
(303) 795-4299 phone  
(303) 738-7929 fax  
tsmith@co.arapahoe.co.us

**Evaluation Director**

Lori Silveira  
Araphoe House, Inc.  
8801 Lipan Street  
Thornton, CO 80260  
(303) 781-1275 phone  
(303) 657-3727 fax  
[lsilveira@ahinc.org](mailto:lsilveira@ahinc.org)

**Contact**

Tom Edgar  
Araphoe House, Inc.  
8801 Lipan Street  
Thornton, CO 80260  
(303) 657-3719 phone  
(303) 657-3727 fax  
tedgar@ahinc.org

**SAMHSA/CSAT STAFF**

**CSAT Project Officer**

Ken Robertson  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockwall II, Suite 740  
Rockville, MD 20857  
(301) 443-7612 phone  
(301) 443-3543 fax  
kroberts@samhsa.gov

**SAMHSA Grants Specialist**

Kathleen Sample  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockwall II, Suite 630  
Rockville, MD 20857  
(301) 443-9667 phone  
ksample@samhsa.gov

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Cluster Group Affiliation**—Adolescent

**Congressional Districts Served**—Colorado 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Purpose, Goals and Objectives**—

*Purpose.* The Arapahoe County Juvenile Justice System and the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners will collaborate to establish an Adolescent Triage Center (ATC) to provide detoxification services to adolescent substance abusers between the ages of 13 and 19 years. The purpose of the project is to provide emergency triage, intervention and other treatment services before moving adolescents to the Juvenile Treatment Center (JAC).

*Goals.* The project's five goals are to (1) to provide a safe withdrawal option for the intoxicated adolescent, (2) maintain a safer community by not releasing intoxicated youth until they have detoxified and stabilized, (3) initiate timely and effective interventions for treatment of alcohol and drug abuse/dependence and other conditions, (4) improve the recidivism rate among adolescents, and (5) reduce drug use among juveniles.

*Objectives.* The six major objectives articulated for the project are: (1) provide detoxification triage to 375-500 youth per year who are referred from law enforcement, schools, and other community agencies; (2) identify and engage at least one family member or significant other to participate and support the youth as a protective factor that positively affects contacts with the juvenile justice system for at least 90 percent of the youth;

(3) for 80 percent of the youth referred to the ATC, demonstrate engagement in at least one community agency for treatment of the assessed problem; (4) for 50 percent of youth who complete the initial detoxification and complete Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) assessment, demonstrate reduced use of drugs and/or alcohol on follow-up.

(5) assess the impact of early intervention on recidivism rate of youth in the juvenile justice system; and (6) reduce the number of local emergency room visits by youth who present for detoxification from drug and alcohol use.

**Target Population/Geographic Service Area**— The project will serve members of the target population located in Arapahoe, Elbert, Douglas, and Lincoln counties in the state of Colorado.

**Theoretical Model**—The project is based on an adolescent, family systems approach to substance abuse services that includes detoxification, motivational interviews, verbal de-escalation, cultural development ad context, adolescent sexual development, sexual orientation issues, mental health screening, and assessment of substance abuse problems.

**Service Providers**—ATC services will be provided by the Arapahoe House, a not-for-profit agency and the largest provider of substance abuse prevention and treatment services in the state of Colorado. Araphoe House will operate the ATC in collaboration with the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners.

**Services Provided**—The JAC is composed of three major service components: (1) centralized juvenile justice processing; (2) assessment, screening, case processing, and referral; and (3) school liaison. Operating under this umbrella, the ATC will expand and improve linkages and coordination among various community agencies that deal with “high-risk” youth. The project will expand the continuum of services for adolescents to include substance abuse triage, residential non-medical stabilization for intoxication and withdrawal, assessment and service planning for substance abuse and co-occurring mental health problems, crisis-oriented family counseling, and referral and linkages to substance abuse services. Residential emergency services

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will be available in a six-bed facility operating from 3:00 p.m. Friday through 9:00 p.m. Sunday for males and females ages 13 to 19.

**Number of Persons Served**—It is estimated that the ATC will admit approximately 1,325 adolescents during the three-year period. Of these, it is anticipated that the clinical staff will collect baseline data on and study approximately 932 adolescents.

**Desired Project Outputs**—The proposed project hopes to accomplish the following: (1) annually provide detoxification services for between 375 and 500 adolescents; (2) engage the family of youth presented for detoxification in planning and implementing a support network that will act as a protective factor to reduce contacts with the juvenile justice system; (3) reduce the number of local emergency room visits by youth presented for intoxication from drugs and alcohol; (4) involve youth in at least one community agency for extended treatment; and (5) effect a reduction of drug and alcohol use in at least 50 percent of the youth treated by the ATC.

**Consumer Involvement**—Consumer input into the planning and implementation of the project will be solicited by including broad community representation in the development of the Juvenile Adjustment Center (JAC), a comprehensive, community-based planning effort involving key organizations and disciplines that provide services to adolescents, and representatives of the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition which is comprised of representatives of law enforcement agencies, the courts, the district attorney's office, schools, and social services and mental health agencies.

## **EVALUATION**

**Strategy and Design**—Arapahoe House will include process and outcome evaluation for the ATC. The process evaluation will document ATC services provided as well as the fidelity of the intervention. The outcome evaluation will document the effectiveness of the program with regard to changes in family environment and functioning, physical and mental health, current alcohol and drug use and related consequences, peer relations and influence, school problems, vocational status, social skills, aggression, legal involvement, deviant behavior, and leisure and recreation.

**Evaluation Goals/Desired Results**—The goals of the evaluation are to: (1) measure the effectiveness of the ATC on client outcomes; (2) assess the program impact on the need for expanded capacity to serve adolescents; (3) assess consumer and referring agency satisfaction with the program; (4) measure services utilization, engagement, and retention; and (5) assess adolescent needs that were not met with the program.

**Evaluation Questions and Variables**—Same as Desired Results

**Instruments and Data Management**—The research instruments that will be used to collect data at baseline and at a 6- and 12-month follow-up interview will include: (1) the GPRA and SAMHSA Core Client Outcomes survey; (2) the Adolescent Self-Assessment Profile; (3) qualitative questions designed by Arapahoe House to assess barriers and facilitators to needed services; and (4) the Stages of Change Readiness and Treatment Eagerness Scale (SOCRATES) to assess the level or stage of personal readiness for change in alcohol and drug abuse at baseline only.

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**APPROVED FUNDING LEVEL**

01:\$466,547                      02:\_\_\_\_\_                      03:\_\_\_\_\_

**Funding Start Date**   9/00

**Funding End Date**   9/03